

VMM-263 Commanding Officer's Hazing Policy

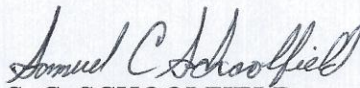


Hazing is contrary to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment and is prejudicial to good order and discipline. It is a willful and demeaning act that degrades and diminishes the ability of victims, and in some cases witnesses, to function effectively within their units. Hazing creates an environment of fear and reprisal, destroying the trust and confidence that is central to unit cohesion, teamwork, and combat readiness. It does not promote loyalty, does not build esprit de corps, and does not prepare Marines for combat. Hazing will not be tolerated in any form.

Hazing can take many forms. The most common involves initiation or congratulatory acts. Hazing also includes any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank, without proper authority causes another military member or members, regardless of service or rank, to suffer or be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning, or harmful.

Hazing can include but is not limited to the following: any form of initiation or congratulatory act that involves physically striking another to inflict pain; piercing another's skin in any manner; verbally berating another; encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol or encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts; playing abusive or ridiculous tricks; threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another; striking, branding, taping, tattooing, shaving, greasing, painting; requiring excessive physical exercise beyond what is required to meet standards; pinning, "tacking on"; "blood winging"; or the forced consumption of food, alcohol, drugs, or any other substance.

Regardless of the form it takes, hazing is always unacceptable. Marines may not consent to being hazed. It is the responsibility of all Thunder Eagles to ensure that hazing does not occur in any form at any level. Every Marine has the responsibility to make the appropriate authorities aware of each violation of this policy.


S. C. SCHOOLFIELD
Commanding Officer